

DRAWING AMENDMENTS

Attached are three sheets of formal Replacement Drawing containing Figures 1, 3, and 4, which includes changes to Figures 1, 3, and 4.

The first, second, and third sheets of Replacement Drawing replaces the corresponding originally filed sheets including Figures 1, 3, and 4, respectively. In Figures 1, 3, and 4, previously omitted element label “34” has been added. Also attached are annotated copies of Figures 1, 3, and 4 showing the changes.

Also attached are three new drawing sheets containing new Figures 6-8.

Attachments: Replacement Sheets
Annotated Sheets Showing Changes
New Drawing Sheets

REMARKS

A. Background

Claims 1-20 were pending in the application at the time of the Office Action. The Office Action objected to the specification and drawings on formal grounds. Claims 1-3 and 13-15 were rejected as being anticipated by cited prior art. Claims 4-12 and 16-20 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. By this response applicant has amended the specification and drawings so as to address the formal issues. Applicant has also amended claims 1, 5-10, 12, 13, 15, 17, 19, and 20; and cancelled claims 4 and 16. As such, claims 1-3, 5-15, and 17-20 are presented for the Examiner's consideration in light of the following remarks.

B. Proposed Amendments

1. Specification Amendments

By this response applicant has amended the abstract to remove implied phrases. Applicant has also amended the paragraph that begins on page 8, line 26 to correct an incorrect element number, as requested by the Office Action.

Applicant has amended the 'Brief Description of the Drawings' section to add descriptions for new Figures 6-8. Applicant has also amended two paragraphs on page 8 of the specification to refer to the new drawings.

In view of the foregoing, applicant submits that the amendments to the specification do not introduce new matter and entry thereof is respectfully requested

2. Drawing Amendments

By this response, Applicant has amended Figures 1, 3, and 4 to add a previously omitted element number.

Applicant has also added Figures 6-8. Figure 6 shows a coupling body containing a diaphragm comprising a series of segments and Figures 7 and 8 show a coupling body with a diaphragm formed on a separate insert ring mounted on the coupling body. These changes are supported by at least page 8, lines 9-14 and 22-25 and claims 9, 10, and 11 of the specification as originally filed.

In view of the foregoing, applicant submits that the amendments to the drawings do not introduce new matter and entry thereof is respectfully requested

3. Claim Amendments

By this response, Applicant has amended claims 1, 5-10, 12, 13, 15, 17, 19, and 20; and cancelled claims 4 and 16. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate claim 4, and claims 5, 6, 8-10 and 13, which previously depended from claim 4, have been amended to no longer depend from claim 4. Claim 7 has been amended as per suggestion of the Office Action. Claim 15 has been amended to incorporate claim 16, and claims 17, 19 and 20, which previously depended from claim 16, have been amended to now depend from amended claim 15. In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that the amendments to the claims do not introduce new matter and entry thereof is respectfully requested.

C. Rejection on the Merits

The Office Action objected to the drawings as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include reference number 34. Accordingly, Applicant has amended Figures 1, 3, and 4 to remedy the objection.

The Office Action also objected to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a) because none of the drawings show a “diaphragm being a series of segments” or “the diaphragm being formed on a separate insert ring.” Accordingly, Applicant has added new Figures 6-8 to remedy the objection.

The Office Action objected to the specification because an incorrect element number was used. Accordingly, Applicant has amended the specification to remedy the objection.

The Office Action objected to claims 4-12 due to various informalities. Specifically, the Office Action objected to claim 4 language in depending from claim 3, and using the word “additional” in claim 7. Accordingly, Applicant has cancelled claim 4 and amended claim 7 to remedy the objections.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-3 and 13-15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,056,326 to Guest. The Office Action also rejected claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by European Application No. EP 1 233 255 A1 to Guest. Applicant has incorporated the added limitations of claim 4 into claim 1 and cancelled claim 4. The Office Action stated that previous claim 4 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicant submits that amended claim 1 is in condition for allowance and requests that the anticipation rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn.

Claims 2-3 and 13-14 each depend from claim 1 and thus incorporate the limitations thereof. As such, applicant submits that claims 2-3 and 13-14 are also distinguished over the cited art for at least the same reasons as discussed above with regard to amended claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant

submits that claims 2-3 and 13-14 are also in condition for allowance and requests that the anticipation rejection of claims 2-3 and 13-14 also be withdrawn.

Applicant has incorporated the added limitations of claim 16 into claim 15 and cancelled claim 16. The Office Action stated that previous claim 16 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicant submits that amended claim 15 is in condition for allowance and requests that the anticipation rejection of claim 15 be withdrawn.

The Office Action objected to Claims 4-12 and 16-20 to as being dependent upon a rejected base claims, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As mentioned above, the limitations of claims 4 and 16 have been incorporated into amended claims 1 and 15, respectively, and claims 4 and 16 have been cancelled. Claims 5-12 and 17-20 each depend from claim 1 or 15. Since claims 1 and 15 are distinguishable over the cited art as set forth above, applicant submits that claims 5-12 and 17-20 are now in condition for allowance.

D. Conclusion

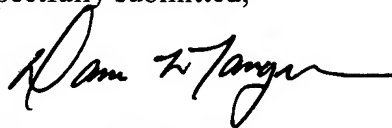
Applicant notes that this response does not discuss every reason why the claims of the present application are distinguished over the cited art. Most notably, applicant submits that many if not all of the dependent claims are independently distinguishable over the cited art. Applicant has merely submitted those arguments which it considers sufficient to clearly distinguish the claims over the cited art.

In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully requests the Examiner's reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-3, 5-15, and 17-20 as amended and presented herein.

In the event there remains any impediment to allowance of the claims which could be clarified in a telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to initiate such an interview with the undersigned.

Dated this 13 day of October 2005.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dana L. Tangren", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

DANA L. TANGREN
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 37,246
Customer No. 022913
Telephone No. 801.533.9800

DLT:saw:dfw
W:\15568\15\DFW0000015521\001.DOC